

Nattapong Noomuean 2009: Utilization of Bio – extracts in Trichogaster Pectoralis Aquaculture System of Farmers at Mueang District, Samut Prakan Province. Master of Science (Agricultural Extension) Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication. Thesis Advisor: Miss Supreeya Siripatthanakulkhajoh, Ed.D. 138 pages.

The objectives of this research were: 1) to study basic information on social, economic and media exposure factors of farmers who commercially fed Trichogaster Pectoralis at Mueang Samut Prakan district (farmers), 2) to specify the utilization of bio-extracts in Trichogaster Pectoralis aquaculture system of farmers (utilization of bio-extracts), 3) to analyze the relationship between social, economic and media exposure factors of farmers and their utilization of bio-extracts, and 4) to study problems and obstacles of farmers.

Samples were 85 farmers who commercially fed Trichogaster Pectoralis in Mueang Samut Prakan district, Samut Prakan province. Research instrument was an interview schedule. Statistics to analyze data included percentage and arithmetic mean. Testing hypotheses employed Chi-square test at 0.05 levels of significance. Research findings revealed that the average age of farmers were 55 years old. On an average, experiences in feeding Trichogaster Pectoralis were 25 years. Most of farmers attained grade 4. They had 5 household labors, 8 hired labors, earned 468,231 Baht of annual total incomes, paid 256,870 Baht of annual total expenses, and gained 52 Rai of farm size on an average. The basic information on social factors concerning age, educational attainment and experiences in feeding Trichogaster Pectoralis together with economic factors on household labors, media exposure in dealing with neighbor and other communities did not illustrate statistical significance at 0.05 levels. Farm size, hired labors, annual total incomes, annual total expenses, and number of visits with the extension agents at Mueang Samut Prakan district and attending the training in the utilization of bio-extracts were statistically related to the utilization of bio-extracts at 0.01 levels. Problems of farmers were natural water was polluted due to the community and industry's factories.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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